

# WALLS COMMUNITY GARDEN 2019 REPORT

November 12, 2019





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# GARDENERS

- 6 community gardeners
- 2 elementary school beds
- Asparagus bed for all community members
- Herb garden for all community members

\*10 beds total used over 2019 season

\*4 beds built over the summer: garlic, potatoes, strawberries, one not used.





## **DONATIONS**

We have received around \$1,000 of donations from various community members and organizations in the community during the 2019 season.

- City of Kent - 3 loads of mulch + delivery (\$300)
- Neighbor 1 - offered to donate crabgrass
- Master Gardener - Ohio native flower beds in front of garden (\$50)
- Pizzute's - soil and compost (\$50)
- Neighbor 1 - \$50
- 2 planters with flowers (\$20)
- 20 bags of soil (\$30)
- Wood for new garden beds (\$120)
- Strawberries and blueberries (\$70)
- Potting soil (\$10)
- Potato garden (\$5)
- Fence stain (\$50)
- Community member (\$200)
- Community member (\$100)
- Community member: salsa donation for event
- Flowers for school sign (\$100)



## VOLUNTEER EVENTS

During the Summer and Fall of 2019 we had the opportunity to host a total of 45 volunteers at 4 events with one event cancellation. We have built a strong relationship with KSU Community Engaged Learning whom supplies most of our volunteers.

### **Kent State Day of Service: June**

Rained out

Approximately 15 volunteers registered

### **Community Engaged Learning: July 10th, 3 hours**

5 volunteers

Mulching, weeding, watering, volunteers took fresh veggies home

### **Freshman Day of Service: August 21, 3 hours**

20 volunteers

Stained garden fence, trimmed, weeding, worked on new beds, touched up on mulching

**Harvest Party: September 13th, 2 hours**

5 volunteers

Covered info table, gave garden tours, handed out salsa samples, sold basket raffle tickets

**Make a Difference Day: October 26th, 3 hours**

15 volunteers

Closed down garden for the season

**Total Volunteer hours = 15+60+10+45=130 hours**





## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Walls Community Garden is frequented by dozens of Kent community members. This section will provide a summary of various interactions during the year with community members.

**Neighbor 2:** walks dog around garden every day

**Gardener 4:** brings family weekly and teach their children about gardening

**Community member:** walking with her kids in the area and stopped to request information about having a plot next year and daughter was interested in joining the garden club

**Gardener 4:** helped with mulching project

Community member: stops by for water for her plants every week

**Gardener 6:** always brings family and shares photos with us of his family at the garden

**Community member:** requested information about how the project is funded



## **GARDEN CLUB**

Walls elementary school had its first garden club meeting on September 23rd, 2019. We had nearly 70 students apply to join, and we accepted 44 1st-3rd graders. The club was a huge success! Here are the activities the club participated in over 9 weeks:

1. Tour of Garden and leaf prints
2. Nature hike and weeding the garden
3. Herb identification and salsa making
4. Leaf identification and leaf person creation
5. Pumpkin exploration and garlic/spring flower planting



6. Pumpkin painting and spider lesson
7. Scarecrows and harvesting - Stages of corn
8. Composting
9. Last meeting of the semester party with games and garden veggies





## **SUSTAINABILITY**

In order to sustain the success of this garden and allow it to grow to its full potential, we have created the Ready Set Grow Coalition. The purpose of this coalition is to gain support for and expand the Farm to School program among all of the schools in Kent. This support comes from a wide variety of partners in the Kent community including departments throughout Kent State University, community organizations, and the Kent City School district. With the support of these partners, we are aiming to have a garden club at each elementary school, a reduced food waste program in each cafeteria, and a community of students, teachers, parents, and community members interested and enthused in the Farm to School program. We had our first Coalition meeting on October 30th, 2019 and we had an overwhelming response from our partners. While the coalition is still in its early stages, we are confident in the growth that will occur over the next few months and for years to come.



# READY SET GROW COALITION

Cindy Widuck, CoPH, community

Casiera Rotunna, CoPH intern

Clara Varndell, CoPH intern

Dean Porr, College of Business

George Joseph, Kent City Schools

Abigail Noble, Community Engaged Learning

Craig Berger, Community Engaged Learning

Claire Stacey, Healthy Communities

Cassie Kirby, Women's Center

Harrison Wicks, City of Kent

Jeff Hallam, CoPH, Healthy Communities

Traci Earles, Miller Community House

John Dunlosky, Psychology, Food for Thought

Annette Kratoski, RCET, EHHS